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Camp Peary Linked To 'Assassination Teams'

TWO FORMER officials of the Central Intelligence Agency — including a former member of the director's staff — have linked Camp Peary with an agency-run assassination program, in spite of repeated denials by the CIA that the agency trains for or participates in such actions. The two former CIA officials, however, differ with some specific allegations concerning assassination and the CIA as raised by ex-CIA agent Joe Maggio in *The Virginia Gazette* last Dec. 22.

Victor L. Marchetti, executive assistant to the deputy director of the CIA during 1965-69, said in a recent telephone interview from his residence in Vienna, Va., that a number of contract employees trained at Camp Peary took part in Operation Phoenix in South Vietnam — "A counter-terror program . . . that had accounted for more than 40,000 deaths of Viet Cong infiltrators" during 1968-71.

Marchetti's statement corroborates remarks made by another ex-CIA official to the *Gazette*, Patrick J. McGarvey. He was an intelligence analyst with the CIA during 1963-1966, and now lives in Upper Marlboro, Md. McGarvey said in a recent phone interview that an informant system "funded, financed, supported, trained, advised and directed" by CIA agents in South Vietnam beginning in 1964 later became the backbone of the agency's assassination program there.

"By 1967, when the Viet Cong Infrastructure became one of the principal targets of the whole policy over there, it was decided just to try and wrap the whole thing up, to eliminate it," McGarvey said.

He added that one of the missions at Camp Peary is "to train contract employees who are going out on specific assignments because of their own specific skills, such as Maggio." Asked if the policy which predated Operation Phoenix was an assassination policy, McGarvey said, "I guess that would

fit as well as some of the euphemisms that were used in Vietnam — they call it 'neutralization of the infrastructure.' Essentially it's saying . . . that you're killing people."

ASKED SPECIFICALLY if those contract employees trained at Camp Peary had taken part in the CIA-run program, Marchetti said, "Some of them (did)." He later explained that although he could not personally recall any particular agents who had gone straight from Camp Peary to the Phoenix program, "It was reasonable to assume that some career and contract personnel were being trained (at Camp Peary) for these programs."

"It was a counter-terror program, in which they went in and shot people, killed people, tortured them," Marchetti said. "This is where people like Maggio serve a purpose."

Both McGarvey and Marchetti explained how the CIA manages to deny taking part in assassination programs while actually being involved in them. McGarvey said "a cadre of agency people who are Americans" is used to train foreign nationals for the actual commission of the operation.

In "CIA: The Myth and the Madness," published by Saturday Review Press, McGarvey pointed out that the Vietnamese National Police were used to eliminate suspected Viet Cong agents in the villages "because the presence of a white man in the village would disrupt the routine there."

"The agency has a policy of not involving its own career officers in these activities," Marchetti said. "The career officer does the planning and masterminding. So the agency gets very annoyed when someone says they kill, and they say, 'Of course we do not kill' — and they do not."

"No career officer at the agency has ever pulled the trigger; it's all contracted out," he added.

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